

~~CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY~~x: Lewis, Fulton

/ 26 January 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

Fulton Lewis, Jr., in a column in the Hearst newspapers of yesterday, attacked Dr. James R. Killian, Jr., president of M.I.T., as being soft on Communism and therefore not qualified to be chairman of the President's committee of consultants on foreign intelligence. There is no mention of CIA in this column. A copy of the article is attached.

Last night, however, in a nation-wide broadcast over the Mutual Network, Lewis was critical of CIA, saying it is a mystery why the agency should be separate from the FBI and quoting Senator Jenner that the Congress does not know how much money it gives to CIA.

Lewis quotes personal experiences in the Far East where he alleges CIA finances all sorts of odd and peculiar projects for purposes of cover. He charges that financially it reportedly supports Radio Free Europe. He states that last Sunday one of Europe's best-informed political experts arrived in America for his own intelligence purposes said that Radio Free Europe broadcasts to Czechoslovakia programs that the Czechs record and then play them back as Communist propaganda. He then, again, attacks Killian.

This is the first time in over two years that Lewis has been other than friendly in his comment on CIA. Recommend that no direct formal action be taken by CIA at this time with Lewis regarding his article and his broadcast. The White House, it appears, should have the major interest due to the attack on the chairman it had named for its committee of consultants. Copy of the broadcast is attached.

STANLEY J. GROGAN

Enclosures: 2

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Record Tells the Story

By **FULTON LEWIS JR.**

WASHINGTON: The primary task of all foreign intelligence operations by United States Government agencies is, presumably, to keep the closest possible check on all current and contemplated Communist activities — everywhere.

It follows that, in establishing a special board to monitor and maintain a continuing review of foreign intelligence operations, the members of that board (and particularly its chairman) should be fully cognizant of all facets of the Communist threat, at home as well as abroad. Certainly, adherents to the anti-anti-Communist school of thought would not seem qualified.

President Eisenhower recently appointed such a commission. Now, having had an opportunity to examine it more closely some members of Congress, concerned with security units, are beginning to wonder, particularly about its chairman.

~~Named to that post was Dr. James R. Killian, Jr., president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.~~

In April, 1947, the Joint Legislative Committee On Rules of the Massachusetts General Court, meeting in Boston, had hearings on proposed State legislation to ban members of subversive organizations from State employment. Killian filed a statement opposing the legislation, opposing compilation of a list of subversive organizations by the

State Attorney General and opposing establishment of a State committee on subversive activities.

In February, 1948, there was another hearing, this one on anti-Communist legislation which would bar Reds from teaching in Massachusetts. Killian testified in opposition.

On April 15, 1949, the Communist Daily Worker published a story about the MIT head refusing to remove from the MIT faculty, Professor Dirk Struick, who had been named in court testimony as a party member. It quoted Killian as saying the removal of a university instructor for his personal political beliefs would be a violation of academic freedom.

During the 1954 hearings before a special AEC Personnel Security Board which resulted in refusal to grant a security clearance to Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, his defense offered an affidavit from Killian. The latter noted that he had served with Oppenheimer on the Science Advisory Committee of the Office of Defense Mobilization, and had attended some ten meetings of the group together with Oppenheimer.

"He impressed me in these meetings," said Killian of Oppenheimer, "as a man deeply devoted to strengthening the security of the nation, and fertile of ideas for promoting the national welfare. Every aspect of his work on this committee sustained my confidence in his loyal integrity."

NEW YORK

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(EXCERPT)

Fulton Lewis, Jr., at 7:00 P.M. over WWDC (Washington) and the Mutual Network:

"The Senate Rules Committee today approved a resolution which bodes trouble for one controversial agency of the Federal government, a resolution to set up a joint watch-dog committee to investigate and keep an eye on the operations and expenditures of the OIO (SIC) -- C.I.A., the CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, which is now headed by Secretary of State Dulles' brother, Allan. That one has been in the wind for a long time and probably should have been undertaken way back because there is no agency of the federal government out of which so much suspicious smoke has been curling for years as this one.

"The truth is, the basic set-up of C.I.A. is not a healthy one for any government such as this one of ours and the very nature of it invites the sort of trouble and irregularity that every dictate of good government should avoid. This, of course, is our foreign intelligence operation, corresponding abroad to the Federal Bureau of Investigation here at home. Just why it's necessary to have it in a separate agency, however, has always been a mystery.

"From the time it was first set-up, the end of the World War II, there have been constant clues of a very unhappy nature about it, and constant charges that this is not going as it should. All suggestions for an investigation of the set-up, however, are met always with the argument that in the very nature of things, the affairs of the Central Intelligence Agency cannot be aired in public because that would expose its operations, its agents, its informers and its expenditures.

"That's all very well, but it is not a good business to have a public agency on which there's no check at all, not even a financial audit, no check of the projects on which it spends its money, and Senator Jenner of Indiana, who was among those who voted for the resolution today, said Congress doesn't even know how much money it gives the C.I.A.

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"I know that I found out in the Far East that C.I.A. was financing all sorts of odd and peculiar projects there as covers for purported intelligence activities and many of those activities did not have a savory reputation. It is reportedly supporting, financially, the so-called Radio Free Europe which I have found consistently on my trips across the Atlantic to be under considerable shadow.

"I was informed as late as Sunday night by one of Europe's best informed political experts, who has just arrived in this country for his own intelligence purposes, that the Radio Free Europe broadcasts to Czechoslovakia are so much the opposite of what they should be that Radio Prague, the Communist radio in the Czech capital, has been recording these broadcasts from the air and playing them back as their own communist propaganda. And the source of that information I consider to be unimpeachably reliable. Furthermore, the general tenor of it is borne out by virtually every informed individual who returns from that area of the world.

"These are only surface scratches compared with the overall total of reports that are current about the C.I.A. and its performances, and apparently the White House has reason to be disturbed about the reports too, because the President has just set up a special lay committee to make a study of the organization, after several preliminary studies by individuals at the recommendation of the Hoover Commission.

"In any event, the smoke is sufficient to have decided the Senate Rules Committee, with only two dissenting votes, to set up this special watch-dog committee to see what has been going on and to watch what goes on in the future. The White House appointed committee doesn't appear likely to amount to much, frankly--they seldom do--and this one is under the chairmanship of the President of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, James R. Killian, who himself has a record of statements that are very soft and very tolerant toward Communism and subversion.

"By long observation one gets to know instinctively how these lay commissions work; they come to Washington every six months--once every six months--sit down, listen to a boiler-plate report by Allan Dulles, which is all sweetness and light, and then go back home to forget it for another six months. I wouldn't be surprised to see this one get a juicy grant, and perhaps some staffing, from the Fund for the Republic.

"By way of backing up the general picture I've painted for you here, the Hoover Commission set up a task force headed by General Mark Clark to do a study of the C.I.A., and the report and findings were extremely critical and derogatory."